

Highlighted Programs

See the program listing inside for details about each program.

April 1, Saturday, 1:00 – 2 :00 p.m., Build Your Own Rain Garden, Adults Only (20 and up)

April 8, Saturday, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Beaver, Pelts, & GeeGaws, Families (All Ages)

April 21, Friday, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., WildHeart, Families (All Ages)

April 23, Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m., Passport to Adventure Kick Off at Union Station, (All ages)

April 29 Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., The Great Outdoor Skills Festival, Families

May 6, Saturday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., Fishin' Magician, Families

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee.

Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268

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Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

The Nutshell



The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 20 April 2006 Number 04



Sharing Memories . . .

Recently, I ran into a gentleman that I have known for a long time, and consider a friend. We had a good visit as friends do that have not seen each other for a while, and lost track of time. He began to glance at his watch. He said that he needed to excuse himself for a moment to call his wife for a ride home. I offered to take him.

As we turned on to the street where he lived, I told him that I wanted to show him something up that street. You can imagine our surprise when we found that his home had been my home for the first eleven years of my life. He invited me to come in and see the house. As I entered, my mind was flooded with wonderful, vivid memories of my youth.

In the dining room, I could almost feel the strain on my toes, as I stretched to see over the edge of the table , where Mom, Dad, Aunt Ruth, and Uncle Mac were playing pitch and wishing I could play.

As Gary and I went to the back porch, memories surfaced of sitting there one night and telling a visiting boy that I could call wolves, and the look of amazement on the boy's face as I made my best wolf howl. A neighbor boy heard me and returned the call. I remembered when Dad moved our home back about 100 yards to make way for the new 40 highway. I spent that entire summer watching in fascination as the life cycle of frogs unfolded in our old basement.

The fact that certain sights, sounds, and smells can bring back memories with such intensity is amazing!

Many things at Burr Oak Woods bring back cherished memories for me. When I go to the dock at the education pond, I can almost see Tiffany's radiant face and swinging arms as she bounces in her wheelchair, unable to speak, but overjoyed as a volunteer naturalist, Miss Gail, reels in the huge channel catfish that they had caught.

When I walk by the amphitheatre, I can hear and feel the campfire where Don Metzinger and I brought stories to life of the people of long ago who worked the logging camps for the Big Mill in Grandin after the Civil War.

When I am close to Burr Oak Creek, I can almost hear the water sloshing in Nolan Ryan's boots. Soaked to the skin, he climbs up out of the creek after working on a Stream Team activity, complaining of no socks and sore feet. The smile that he gave me when I told him that he could have my extra pair of socks was special.

On those days when the sky is blue and the sun warms my back, it is almost as if Jeremy, who had come with the Rainbow Center, is there beside me. In his excitement at catching fish, he turns to me and says, "It just doesn't get any better than this, does it, Jim?"

Memories are a truly precious gift that seems to only get better with time. They often surface unexpectedly and fill us with joy and happiness. While the time we spend at Burr Oak Woods is certainly special to each of us for many reasons, I hope that in some small way we are helping to create memories for those visitors that we come in contact with.

*Jim Hawes,
Volunteer Naturalist*

Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!

A p r i l P r o g r a m s

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268)

ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH

to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

1 Saturday, 1:00 – 2 :00 p.m.

Build Your Own Rain Garden

Adults Only (20 and up)

The Rain Garden is one of the most popular new perennial garden designs and it helps the environment by keeping storm water run-off on your property instead of the sewer. Come and learn how to build a rain garden and the recommended native plants that will thrive there. This program will be taught by Master Gardeners, Judy Robinson and Stephen Stone. Please call to register.

2 Sunday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Burr Oak Creek Stream Families

Families (with children 7 and up)

Join us in our celebration of Burr Oak Creek. It has been a long, cold winter. It is time to get outdoors. We'll work together to clean up this beautiful little creek. Be prepared to get muddy and wet! We'll be getting into the creek. Please call to register.

7 - 9 Friday - Sunday

Arbor Day Weekend

Families (All ages)

Stop by the nature center and pick up your free seedling. A tree can add so much to your landscape and increase the value of your home. While you're here, tour the nature center!

8 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Women Only: Archery

Women (18 and up)

Want to get started in a new shooting sport? Designed for adults, we will cover general topics like proper stance, equipment, follow through and basic archery safety. Meet at the Lake City Shooting Range for a fun day of archery. Equipment will be provided. Please call to register.

8 Saturday, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Beaver, Pelts, & GeeGaws

Families (All ages)

The fur trade was a major part of world economy during the late 1700's – 1800's. For the young United States the fur fields west of the Mississippi were a source of amazing wealth. The Missouri Territory was a paradise for trappers and subsistence hunters. Join us this evening as one of these hardbitten, rugged individuals straight from 1820, talks to us about trapping, trading and life among the Indians. Please call to register.

11 Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Conservation Kid's Club:

Doctor Nutcase

Ages 7 – 10

Dr. Nutcase is back by popular demand! Your kids will love this hands-on program as he introduces scientific method and hypothesis development. He needs some help in unlocking one of those amazing mysteries of science. We will become his research assistants as he leads us through an incredible science experiment. Don't miss out on the fun! Please call to register.

12 Wednesday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

HomeSchool: Nature's Pastel of Colors

Ages 3 – 5

Spring is here! Spring means colorful wildflowers! We will be dressing someone into a flower as we cover the basic parts of a flower. We will head down on the trail to search for beautiful wildflowers that have decided to come out this spring. Cool wildflower craft included! Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

12 Wednesday, Ages 9 – 11 or 12 and

up 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:30

p.m. or Ages 6 – 8 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

HomeSchool: Science Fair Presentations

Join us for the 2006 Burr Oak Woods Conservation Science Fair. Bring your completed projects to be put on display. We will be having presentations and demonstrations of everyone's projects. Students who did not complete projects are encouraged to attend as well. Please call to register.

15 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Burr Oak Woods Hiking Adventures

Adults Only (20 and up)

Volunteer Naturalists will be taking you to the Katy Trail to look for some early beautiful spring wildflower growth. We will start at Rocheport, just East of Booneville and head east for a couple of miles. Hiking is on a flat chat gravel trail running along the Missouri River. Wear comfortable shoes, and bring snacks and water. We'll return to Burr Oak Woods no later than 3:00 p.m.. Please call to register

15 Saturday, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Canoeing

Families

Did you know that Missouri has over 57,000 miles of floatable streams? Let's launch our boats on the pond and learn important canoeing skills. We will even teach you the most sought after paddling techniques! Afterwards we will do an "amazing race" in a canoe! Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

15 Saturday or 16 Sunday,

2:30 – 3:30p.m.

At the Movies

Ages 7 and up

Missouri's Tallgrass Prairie: An America Original. From its rich past to a future promise, the tallgrass tale is a truly American experience. Journey into this exciting world of color, energy and life; and experience the treasures that make it special. No registration required.

16 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

What's that Wildflower?

Families

Join us for a family wildflower hike; strolling the trails of Burr Oak Woods; in search of new and exciting spring beauties! After our hike, we will come back inside and make a take-home flower craft sure to delight every flower lover in your family. Please call to register.

8 Saturday and 9 Sunday

5:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Managed Youth Turkey Hunt

Closeed to the Public walking,

hiking, jogging the area, trails

and roadway.

The Nature Center is fully

available to the public.

18 Tuesday or 20 Thursday

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Little Acorns:

Wild About Wildflowers!

Ages 3-6

Spring is here! Spring is HERE! The birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, so let's go explore outside! Naturalist Diane Neal will be taking Little Acorns out on the trails to look for spring wildflowers and what ever else we can find. Perhaps we'll even be able to take a little piece of spring home with us. Hope to see you there! Please call to register (limited to 15 youngsters).

21 Friday, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WildHeart

Families (All ages)

"Sharing the heart of the wild with the heart of the child." Jan & George Syrigos have loved nature since they were kids. They combine their love of nature and music to take you on a wild musical adventure exploring wildlife, habitats and natural history. Jan's first music CD, CritterRock, was produced by the Missouri Department of Conservation and was awarded the Parent's Choice® Award. The CritterRock music video was honored to receive an Emmy® in 2002! Their much anticipated second CD was recently released, entitled WildHeart. This is a music concert you won't want your kids to miss! Bring a blanket, if the weather is nice we'll host it outdoors!

22 Saturday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Ages 2 and up

Join us for the story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required.

22 Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day!

Families (with children 5 and up)

Come celebrate Earth Day with us! Join us for a day dedicated just to making the Earth a better place to live! We will have a whole day to clean up Burr Oak Woods and just enjoy nature. Activities may include litter pick-ups, planting trees, hikes, or nature studying. This activity can be completed by Missouri Conservation Frontiers members for points. Dress for the weather and to get into the stream for litter pick-up. Please call to register.

23 Sunday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

CSI: Burr Oak Woods

Families (with children 7 and up)

We need some help! A mystery is lurking at Burr Oak Woods and we need to know who did it! Go through basic CSI training and then go out and use those skills to solve the mystery at Burr Oak Woods. Please call to register.

23 Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Passport to Adventure Kick Off at

Union Station, All ages

Continuing with the tradition for 14 years now, Kansas City's Passport to Adventure takes you around the city with fun and adventure to discover. Join us in this kick-off event at Union Station where you pick up your passports to begin your adventure. All of the hosting interpretive sites will be there with lots of activities and prizes. No reservations needed.

29 Saturday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Babes in the Woods: Rain and Rainbows

Ages infant – 2

Learning to appreciate and respect the natural world starts at an early age. During this class we will help your infant or toddler discover nature fun with activities about rain and rainbows. We will also take a walk on one of our trails to see what the spring woods have to discover, so bring a stroller. Please call to register.

29 Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Great Outdoor Skills Festival

Come out, learn a new skill, meet new friends, and have a blast at the first Kansas City Regional Great Outdoor Skills Day at Robeson Middle School located at 8201 Holmes. Some of the skills offered by trained MDC staff include archery, canoeing, orienteering, backpacking, and outdoor cooking. This family event is a fantastic way to spend quality time together. Registration is not required. Come out and see us!



APRIL PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

28900 E Argo Road

Grain Valley, Mo 64029

816-229-4448

www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call 816-229-4448 for information and to register for these programs.

2 Sunday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Youth Air Rifle

5 Wednesday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

How-to Chronograph

8 Saturday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Ladies' Archery Meeting

10 Monday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Cartridge Reloading- Basic Rifle

11 Tuesday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Turkey Tail and Beard Mount

12 Wednesday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Basic Turkey Hunting Seminar

13 Thursday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Beginners Archery Pt.II

15 Saturday, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Ladies' Firearm Class

23 Sunday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Family Trap Shooting

27 Thursday, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Beginners Archery Pt. I

May 6, Saturday 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Fishin' Magician, Families (All ages)

Do you love to fish? Do you love magic shows? Then this is a special program you won't want to miss! By special appointment, the Fishin' Magicians are coming to Burr Oak Woods. They'll thrill you and yours with their fun and bewildering antics. How do they do that? Please call to register.

For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/burroak/>